



NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD
OF EQUALIZATION**

450 N Street
Sacramento
California 95814

BILL LEONARD
Member, BOE
Second District

RAMON J. HIRSIG
Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NR# 30-L
Date: June 1, 2004
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INSPECTORS WON'T BE BLOWING SMOKE

“Beginning July 1, Board of Equalization (Board) inspectors will be looking for the new California Cigarette and Tobacco Products License to be displayed at all business locations selling cigarettes or tobacco products in California,” announced Bill Leonard, Member, State Board of Equalization. “Any business that does not display this license in public view is subject to a civil penalty of \$500.”

Any business found to be selling cigarettes or tobacco products without a license after June 30, 2004, is subject to a misdemeanor fine of \$1,000. A business is guilty of a separate violation for each day that it offers cigarettes or tobacco products for sale after the Board or other law enforcement agency gives notification that it is required to be licensed under this law and will be subject to additional criminal penalties.

In addition to checking for licenses, Board inspectors will be ensuring that all cigarette packs bear valid California cigarette tax stamps, have been purchased from licensed distributors or wholesalers, and are included in the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) list, as approved by the Attorney General. After June 30, 2004, possession of cigarette or tobacco products for sale in this state from a manufacturer or brand family not included in the MSA are subject to seizure and forfeit to the state.

For details about licensing, recordkeeping, as well as other requirements established by this new law, please visit the Board's website at www.boe.ca.gov or contact our Information Center at 800-400-7115 and select the Cigarette and Tobacco Program option, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Pacific Standard Time. For enforcement questions, you may contact the Board's Investigations Division at 916-324-0105.

*Tax Evasion hurts all of us.
To report suspected tobacco tax evasion, contact the Board's Investigations Division
at 916-324-0105 or the Tax Evasion Hotline at 1-888-334-3300.*

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